

**Approved Minutes
Public Transportation and Bicycle Committee
April 21, 2009**

Attendance: Jane Ashby, Peter Lillya, Fran VanTreese, Helene Ver Eecke, Karen Kowles, Guilford Mooring, Walter Wolnik

Jane opened the meeting at 8:50 in the first floor meeting room of Town Hall.

There was a general discussion about bus stops and transportation funding.

Peter moved that the minutes be accepted as amended. Helene seconded. The vote passed unanimously.

Peter reported that the Design Review Board had not acted on anything in the PTBC's purview.

Fran reported on a meeting with the representative from RailAmerica and Larry Shaffer regarding a proposal to upgrade the rail line through Amherst and the maintenance of passenger rail service through Amherst.

Fran moved and Peter seconded that the committee adopt the following statement:

The Public Transportation and Bicycle Committee, in response to plans to discontinue passenger rail through Amherst, urges the Town Manager and Select Board to promote passenger rail service through Amherst for the following reasons:

1. There is a demonstrated need for rail passenger service as shown by Amherst's existing high ridership.
2. Amherst has a large student population, many of whom do not own cars.
3. Rail service provides a connection of the Western region to Boston and other major hubs.
4. There is a reduced environmental impact of moving passengers and freight by rail rather than on roads and highways.
5. Rail transportation is more cost effective than other long distance transportation modes.

The motion passed unanimously.

Guilford presented plans of the proposed work on Spring Street.

After a long discussion, Karen moved that the PTBC approve the Spring Street parking lot area with tree changes as discussed (moving planter halfway into the common, additions bike racks, and benches facing the common), but deferring on the design of the corners. Peter seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

There was a discussion of Spring Street plans in front of the Lord Jeff. The Committee decided not to take a position.

Jane announced there would be a meeting about bus ridership on May 13, 2009 at 5:30 at the Bangs Center.

There was a discussion about the Committee Charge. Peter will revise and bring back the charge to the next meeting.

The next meeting will be held May 12th at 8:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran VanTreese, Secretary